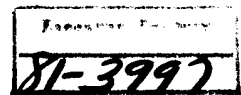


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NFAC-1658-8/1

NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505



Director

13 APR 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : D/NFAC's Role in re National-Intelligence Collection  
Capabilities (U)

1. Action Requested. That you review and concur with the discussion below of the D/NFAC's role in evaluating proposed national-intelligence collection capabilities with respect to the satisfaction of national-intelligence production requirements. (U)

2. Background. As you consider changes in the functions of the Intelligence Community Staff, it is timely to focus on the way proposed national collection-system options are reviewed at present, what we see wrong with the current procedures, and what we propose as a remedy. Highly technical matters, often abstruse in nature, have important consequences, for the users, both producers and consumers.

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only the program offices and the IC Staff negotiate NFIP resource-allocation decisions, with the intelligence users--who can make judgments on the intelligence needs down the pike--playing an outside, catch-up role, if at all. (C)

3. Discussion. I believe the producers should greatly influence, if not govern, the whole collection-resource process. Accordingly, the D/NFAC should take the lead in participating actively and continuously in the evaluation of national-intelligence collection capabilities insofar as they affect major resource decisions. (C)

4. Today, I perceive that

-- Major collection and processing resource-decisions are generally being made without the voice of the main users, the intelligence producers, being heard.

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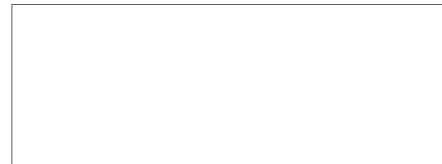
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- No Intelligence Community official representing the producers and thus indirectly the consumers, except on an ad hoc basis, makes substantive judgments about the appropriate future collection mix.
- ICS, the program managers, and, most importantly, the DCI and DDCI would gain from explicit advice on what is needed and why, with which priority, and if a new proposed collection system is adequately responsive.
- Whether or not a Community role is retained by the D/NFAC, a relatively small staff group of full-time, seasoned officers able to address complex, multidisciplinary issues is required; it should be ecumenical in nature, involving DIA, INR, and NSA in its work. (C)

5. Owing to the commencement of the FY 83 NFIP budget cycle, the proper time to begin such an effort as described above is fast approaching. Therefore, I would like the opportunity at your earliest convenience to discuss further my idea for the mechanism that should be employed in carrying out this responsibility. (C)

6. Conclusion. As the chief intelligence production officer of the CIA, the D/NFAC's substantive, coherent judgments tying production- and collection-resource recommendations to the real problems of dollars and people, e.g., assessment of future collection systems, should be a major ingredient in the DCI's management decisions. (C)



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SUBJECT: D/NFAC's Role in re National-Intelligence Collection Capabilities (U)

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